

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /078 W
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R 121709Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8008

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 00475

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: UN, SHUM, CI, UK

SUBJECT: SHEILA CASSIDY: NEXT STEPS

REF: STATE 005627

1. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS PLANNING THREE ACTIONS IN THE WAKE OF ITS DISPUTE WITH CHILE OVER THE DETENTION AND MISTREATMENT OF DR. SHEILA CASSIDY. DR. CASSIDY HAS PREPARED A WRITTEN STATEMENT ON THE CONDITIONS OF HER IMPRISONMENT BY CHILEAN AUTHORITIES WHICH THE UK WILL PRESENT TO THE UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS MEETING IN GENEVA IN FEBPUARY. HMG ALSO INTENDS TO RAISE THE MATTER OF DR. CASSIDY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE AT A FORTHCOMING MEETING OF EC POLITICAL DIRECTORS, ALTHOUGH NEITHER AN OBJECTIVE (E.G., A DECLARATION OR DEMARCHE) NOR A DATE FOR THIS INITIATIVE HAS BEEN SET. FINALLY, CONFIDENTIAL

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AMBASSADOR SECONDE WILL REMAIN IN BRITAIN INDEFINITELY:

HE MAY EVENTUALLY BE REASSIGNED OR, CONCEIVABLY, RETURN TO SANTIAGO WHEN PINOCHET IS NO LONGER IN CONTROL.

2. THE FCO BELIEVES DR. CASSIDY HAS BEEN REASONABLY RESTRAINED SINCE HER RETURN TO ENGLAND AND THAT HER DEALINGS WITH THE PRESS HAVE NOT BEEN AS SENSATIONALIST AS THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN. HER FAMILY AND HER ATTORNEY HAVE CONVINCED HER THAT SHE OUGHT TO PROFIT FINANCIALLY FROM HER ORDEAL, BUT SHE HAS NOT EXPLOITED THE SITUATION UNDULY. ALTHOUGH THE FUROR OVER THE INCIDENT WILL GRADUALLY SUBSIDE. THE LABOR GOVERNMENT, LEERY OF SLIPPING TOO FAR BEHIND ITS LEFT WING ON SUCH ISSUES, DOES NOT INTEND TO LET THE MATTER DROP ENTIRELY AND HAS THEREFORE DEVISED THE COURSES OF ACTION OUTLINED ABOVE.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH AN EMBASSY OFFICER, FCO OFFICIALS ALSO UNDERSCORED HMG'S GENERAL ABHORRENCE OF CHILE'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. WHILE FEW GOVERNMENTS ARE UNBLEMISHED IN THIS REGARD, CHILE, THEY BELIEVE HAS GONE TOO FAR. NOT ONLY ARE CHILEAN CITIZENS VICTIMIZED BUT DUAL NATIONALS AND FOREIGN NATIONALS AS WELL. THEY BELIEVE THAT STATE SECURITY ORGANS HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF HAND IN CHILE AND THAT HMG'S VIGOROUS REACTION IN THE CASSIDY CASE MIGHT PROVE A SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO MORE MODERATE ELEMENTS IN THE PINOCHET REGIME.

RICHARDSON

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